

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 22, 1983 | Agra Hayana 1,  
1905 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Implementation of September Agreement  
with Coal Miners' Organisations

+

\*102. SHRIMATI PRAMILA  
DANDEVATE :  
SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had failed to implement the September agreement with the coal miners' organisations so far as Rs. 12 special allowance is concerned;

(b) if so, the reasons for such failure;

(c) whether Government have now decided to implement the agreement as was arrived in September;

(d) if so, since when; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN  
THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI  
DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Third National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA-III) has been signed on 11-11-83 by the representatives of the Management and the workers. This Agreement includes payment of Rs. 12/- as a 'special incentive' allowance per month per worker. All the benefits under the agreement would take effect from 1-1-1983.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : अध्यक्ष महोदय खुशी की बात है कि मैंने जब सवाल पूछा था तब यह नहीं हुआ था, उसके बाद आपने एग्रीमेंट करके 12 रुपए इन्सेटिव बोनस की मांग मानी है।

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० शिव शंकर) : आपके सवाल की वजह से नहीं हुआ है।

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : 21 परसेंट वेज इन्क्रीज करके 7 लाख मजदूरों को देने की मांग मंजूर की है। लेकिन क्या यह बात सही है कि 800 वर्कर जो माइनर्स बी० सी० सी० एल० के हैं, उनको डेसिप्लेन के नाम से निकाला गया है और उनको सजा दी है कि 8 दिन की मजदूरी एक महीने में कम कर देंगे। दूसरा मेरा (बी) प्रश्न है कि कोल माइनर्स प्रावीडेंट फण्ड अथारिटी में 7 करोड़ 37 लाख भारत कोकिंग कोल लिमिटेड ने प्रावीडेंट फण्ड नहीं दिया है, इसलिए पेनाल्टी मंजूर की है ?

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि एक बाजू से आप मजदूरों के लिए इतने अच्छे कदम उठा रहे

हैं, एग्रीमेंट कर रहे हैं और दूसरे बाजू से पेनल्टी करके एक हजार वर्कर्स का आठ दिन का बेजस कट कर रहे हैं। यह जो दूसरा है, जिसमें प्रोविडेंट फण्ड न देने की वजह से आपने पेनल्टी की है इन दोनों बातों में से एक तो आप मजदूरों को वापिस कर दीजिए क्योंकि उससे एटमास्फीयर अच्छा रहेगा। इसको आप माफ करेंगे क्या और इस पेनल्टी के बारे में क्या राय है? यही मैं पूछना चाहूंगी।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Though, of course, both the questions that have been raised do not arise out of this question that has been posed here but I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Member that I was discussing this issue with the Chairman, Coal India.

It is true that in some cases some of the workers had stopped work without any reason and some wages were cut, according to law, in order to discipline the workers.

I have also made a request to the workers that when we have increased the wage bill by more than Rs. 200 crores a year, they should also give the return to the nation.

If there is no discipline, the production which is already badly affected will further deteriorate and, I am sure, the House will support me when I say that there should be an element of discipline amongst the workers. While we are prepared to help the workers to the extent that we can, there should also be discipline on the production line of their working so that the nation thrives. At the cost of the nation, nobody should be allowed to indulge in activities which create problems.

It is precisely in this background that action has been taken.

I am not bothered whether it is legal or illegal. That is a different question.

Though I can say that it is legal, but legality apart, this action has been taken only to discipline the workers.

I would beseech the Hon. Members to support the Department on this aspect because we have got to get the best out of them. Many of you are aware as to how the working is going on in the coal mines. We must take care of them. This is our obligation. But still they must also give their best. They cannot play with the nation.

It is in this context that action has been taken.

On the question of provident fund, I am not actually aware. But the question of provident fund does not arise from this question. As I said I am not aware whether the penalty has been imposed.

I will certainly look into it as to what has been done because if it has unduly been done, certainly I will see that the workers get their due. I am not sure about it because this question has been raised for the first time though it does not arise out of this question that has been posed here.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : शुरू में ही मैंने धन्यवाद दिया था, आपने उस एरिया में इन्डस्ट्रियल पीस पैदा करने के लिए जो कदम उठाए थे, उसको अगर आप देना चाहते हैं तो खुलकर देना चाहिए। आघा-आघा मन करके नहीं देना चाहिए। आपको पता है कि 1974 में जो रेलवे वर्कर्स स्ट्राइक पर गए थे, उनको वापिस लेने के बाद उन्होंने वादा किया था कि हम काम करेंगे। रेलवे मिनिस्टर ने कहा था कि 65 करोड़ का सरप्लस होगा लेकिन वर्कर्स के सहयोग की वजह से 126 करोड़ का सरप्लस 1977-78 में रेलवे को हुआ। मैं आपको उस अनुभव से कहना चाहती हूँ कि अगर आप प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं तो वर्कर्स के साथ विन्डिक्टव एटीच्युड नहीं होना चाहिए।

मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आप जरा उस बारे में सोच लीजिए। पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्स में बहुत सी इन्डस्ट्रीज हैं। उसके लिए नेशनल वेज पालिसी तय करने के लिए आप उनके प्रतिनिधियों के साथ में बैठकर कुछ कदम उठाने के लिए सोच रहे हैं क्या ?

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : जब दिमाग ही नहीं है तो आधे दिमाग का सबाल ही नहीं है।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is an unfortunate reflection on Mrs. Dandavate which she does not deserve.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपके घर तक पहुंचा दूंगा कि आपने क्या कहा है। मैं प्रोफेसर साहब को कह दूंगा।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Of course, I am not aware of the profit made by the Railways in 1977-78 as the hon. Member has said. But, if it is so, Prof. Dandavate does deserve all congratulations, not Mrs. Dandavate in any case.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE : Definitely.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : On the question that she had raised with reference to a national wage policy in the public sector, in fact I have taken it up with the Finance Minister and the Finance Minister seems to partly agree. Of course, it has not been finalised. I had myself taken it up after we had gone into some difficulty in some sectors, that there should be a National Committee which should go into the wage policy of the public sector undertakings and take a decision in consultation with the workers and having regard to the larger interests; that is, whenever there has to be an increase, instead of each management sitting and discussing with the workers and coming to some conclusions, a proper committee or a commission, whatever one would like to say, could be

constituted. This was the idea I had already thrown to the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister said that he will think over it. It is a matter of policy and a decision has to be taken. She has asked whether the mind of the Government is working on that. I would say that it is in the embryonic stage.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Obviously this question was tabled according to our rules before this coal agreement has been finalised. Now, of course, we are all very happy that this agreement has been finalised without any further hitch. But I would like to ask the hon. Minister that while we all appreciate his view which he has just expressed that there should be a better discipline in the working of the coal industry and the performance of the industry should be more commensurate with the improved conditions which have been given here by the agreement, he has not said anything about all the other factors which are responsible for indiscipline in this very vital industry. They are taking measures, he said, against the workers. Over one thousand workers are being dismissed in BCCL and by the way, 8 days' wages are being deducted for one day's absence. For one day's absence from work eight days' wages are being deducted. But I am not bothered about that just now; we will fight that out. But what are you doing to bring discipline into the other sectors of the industry without which your performance will never improve? What about the managements which are colluding with all those contractors? What about the Mafia gangs which are known to be operating in the coal mines, especially in Bihar, where the BCCL mines are located? What about all the corruption which is going on there? What about the neglect of safety provisions which is leading to numerous accidents in which these very workers are being killed losing their lives? So, instead of telling us something about that, he is only telling us about the disciplinary measures taken about the workers, as if they are the only people responsible.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am sorry. I answered the question that was

pecially raised by Mrs. Dandavate with reference to the workers though, of course, I prefaced my answer by saying that the question does not arise and the supplementary does not arise out of the main question itself. I may submit for the knowledge of the hon. Member, I am only sorry that he says that he will separately deal on the question of the action that we have taken. I would certainly regret if he creates indiscipline so that ultimately the nation has to suffer because of production going down and because of the problems that might be created. I would appeal to him not to take this posture; on the contrary, to co-operate with the Government so that the production in the country goes up and the national economy becomes better.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Co-operation is a two-way traffic.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** I have taken it seriously because I always felt that he is a serious person. When he has said something, I have not been able to digest it that he has said it in a light-hearted manner. That is why I am making an open appeal to you. I know that your Union is one of the very strong unions. Well, if the nation has to be jeopardised, I leave it to you to judge.

Let us, therefore, take some action. I must say that there are Mafia gangs working and the management is colluding and I have said this myself that what best we could do, we are doing. I assure you that whenever anyone brings—one of the friends of Mr. Gupta who happens to be my friend also in the other House brings certain legitimate facts to our notice, we have taken instantaneous action. Therefore, it is not as though we are siding with one side and not siding with the other. The national perspective has got to be kept in view whether it is from the management side or from the side of the Mafia gang or anybody, I assure the hon. Members that nobody would be spared when it comes to the question of the national interest.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :** Sir, in the name of discipline and in the name

of increase in production, now what is started is mass victimisation of the workers. Sir, yesterday I was in Ranchi and I have come back only yesterday evening. I was in the colliery area day before yesterday and I addressed a public meeting there. In Singrauli, 1100 workers have been dismissed and there have been several charge sheets. There has been break in services. Already threat has been issued by the Chairman that those days have gone when you were free to go on struggle, strikes and all these things. I draw attention to this. I have brought a copy of a circular issued that those who are either regular absentees or late-comers starting from 1973, their history sheet is being prepared and they have been served with the warnings that if they come late, their services would be terminated. That is creating an atmosphere of terror. It is bound to be counter-productive. The workers are also thinking of another round of strikes against the Chairman's action. That is why I am bringing this to your notice. I am asking whether you have received a copy of the memorandum submitted by the Officers' Association in this very month wherein they have raised this question also. They are also now thinking of going on strike actions. That is because the officers have been asked to assure a 2/1-2% increase in the production, otherwise they will be sacked or they will be transferred. The atmosphere that is being created is very unhelpful for the increase in production. This is a very serious thing. Therefore, I draw your attention to this. I want to know whether you will enquire into this as to whether this is happening or not and whether you are prepared to talk with all the Union Leaders on how this atmosphere could be changed. We are also interested in the increase in production but we want that it should be on the basis of cooperation of the workers. After such an agreement, if this atmosphere is not created and if the reverse atmosphere is created, then the results will be just counterproductive.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** If it is a case of terrorism or victimisation to the workers, I can assure the House that I shall certainly intervene. But, if there is

any such case, I would certainly assure the House that we will see to it that that type of victimisation or terrorism is stopped. But, for once at least, Shri Mukherjee has spoken about the Officers' Association. Many an officer, I must submit, have developed vested interests. I have myself looked into it. These Officers' Association had been creating the problem because of the vested interests that they have developed over the years. When once we have started transferring them from one place to the other, they start creating the problem. They have even threatened to the extent of saying that they would go on strike. Well, we have stood the ground. In fact I notice that many an officer is sitting at one place for twenty years and, if I take action, be it in the Petroleum Department or be it in the Coal Department, these things start coming in the newspapers that I am upsetting the apple-cart. This is how things started coming out. But in spite of that I would like to submit that if there is any motivation either on my part or on the part of the Coal India Ltd., I would not mind making a clean breast of myself before this House. Sir, if it is in the larger interest of the nation that we have got to unsettle some persons who have become vested interests and are creating problems, I would beseech of the House to support us. If there is any case of victimisation and terrorism be it of an officer or of a worker, I assure the House that we will see to it that such a thing does not take place because primarily it will create problems for the production and the national interest would be jeopardised. There is no question of personal approach in these matters. One has got to solve these problems in the larger context of the things but if it is a question of discipline and making the efforts for better production, I would request that the House should support me.

**Infiltration of Defective L.P.G. Cylinders into Indian Oil Corporation Refinery at Baroda**

\*103. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been

drawn to the news item in the Indian Express of 1 September, 1983 about the alleged infiltration of a large number of unauthorised, defective L.P.G. cylinders into the oil refinery of the Indian Oil Corporation at Baroda ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to totally stop smuggling of such spurious cylinders, which are not only susceptible to leakage but also pose a serious threat to the Refinery complex, along with regular ones for refilling at the bottling plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To check injection of spurious cylinders in the distribution system, constant vigilance and inspections are carried out at various points. At the bottling plant, cylinders are checked before and after filling in order to ensure their genuineness. In addition, regular inspection of distributors godowns are carried by the field officers of the oil companies to identify presence of any spurious cylinder.

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Sir, rejected cylinders are welded by unscrupulous business men and supplied to the Indian Oil along with new ones. The Minister has admitted that this practice is going on but unless a section of officers and employees are in league with the suppliers this practice cannot go on for a long time. So, I would like to know whether a section of officers and employees are in league with suppliers of fake cylinders ?

SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA : I am sorry it is not so. It is only because of the vigilance of our officers that 31 spurious cylinders could be found within April 1983 to October, 1983 and, therefore, how can I say that they are in league ?

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Sir, the general consumer suffers on ac-